

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1479

16 September 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

✦ Security Council last night condemns UNITA for its continuing military actions and imposes arms and oil embargo against Angolan territory not controlled by Government; embargo to enter into force on 25 September unless cease-fire is established.

✦ Secretary-General expresses extreme concern about outbreak of fighting in Abkhazia, Georgia, citing violation of 27 July cease-fire Agreement; calls on all parties, particularly Abkhaz side, to stop fighting immediately and to withdraw to original cease-fire lines.

✦ Bosnian Presidency signs cease-fire agreement with Bosnian Serb delegation in Geneva; Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference invite three parties to Bosnia and Herzegovina conflict to meeting in Sarajevo on 21 September to consider peace package.

✦ General Assembly yesterday elects eight of 11 judges to serve on International Tribunal to prosecute violations of international humanitarian law committed in former Yugoslavia; three more to be elected today.

✦ Special Representative Jonathan Howe says United Nations involvement in Somalia has been successful overall; notes that deaths from hunger have been eliminated since last year.

✦ Secretary-General to ask Security Council to consider new ways to promote implementation of Cyprus resolutions if good offices mission does not succeed soon; proposes to send team of experts to island to address issues relating to package of confidence-building measures.

✦ PLO ready to end state of antagonism with Israel by departing from usual United Nations resolutions during upcoming session of General Assembly, Observer for Palestine tells Committee on Rights of Palestinian People.

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Acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council last night condemned the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) for its continuing military actions and decided to impose an arms and oil embargo against the territory of Angola not controlled by the Government. The embargo will enter into force on 25 September unless a cease-fire is established. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 864 (1993).

The resolution requires all States to prevent the sale or supply of arms, ammunition and petroleum products to the territory of Angola other than through points of entry named by the Angolan Government. The Council said it was ready to consider imposing further measures, including trade measures and restrictions on travel by UNITA personnel, if an effective cease-fire had not been established by 1 November. It further decided to establish a committee to monitor the sanctions.

The Council also decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for three months until 15 December. It reiterated its readiness to consider expanding substantially the United Nations presence in the country in the event of significant progress in the peace process. Noting statements by UNITA that it was prepared to resume peace negotiations and cooperate in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all Angolans, the Council demanded that UNITA act accordingly. It strongly condemned UNITA's repeated attacks against UN personnel working to provide humanitarian assistance.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed extreme concern about an outbreak of fighting today in Abkhazia, Georgia. The Secretary-General said reported attacks by Abkhaz forces on Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazia, and Ochamchira were a very serious violation of the cease-fire Agreement of 27 July. That Agreement had been mediated by the Russian Federation and welcomed by the Security Council in resolution 854 (1993).

The renewed fighting jeopardized the regional peace process being conducted under the auspices of the United Nations, the Secretary-General warned. He called on all parties, in particular the Abkhaz side, to stop fighting immediately and to withdraw to the original cease-fire lines.

The Secretary-General was considering what further action might be taken, and was expected to speak with the Russian Federation's Permanent Representative this afternoon, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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16 September 1993

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Members of the collective Bosnian Presidency met yesterday and today with the Bosnian Serb delegation to the Geneva peace talks and signed a cease-fire agreement calling for a cessation of hostilities between the Bosnian Army and Bosnian Serb forces, according to a United Nations spokesman. The agreement contained provisions relating to the disbanding of detainee camps, access for humanitarian convoys and the creation of a working group on human rights.

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, have invited the three parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina to a meeting in Sarajevo on 21 September to consider the Geneva peace package as a whole, the spokesman said. He described the proposed meeting as an important development, and expressed the hope that it would lead to a firm agreement.

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The General Assembly yesterday elected eight of the 11 judges to serve on the International Tribunal to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the former Yugoslavia. The judges, who will serve four-year terms as of 15 November, are: Gabrielle Kirk McDonald (United States); Jules Deschenes (Canada); Antonio Cassese (Italy); Georges Michel Abi-Saab (Egypt); Li Haopei (China); Germain Le Foyer De Costil (France); Lal Chan Vohrah (Malaysia); and Sir Ninian Stephen (Australia).

The Assembly had before it a list of 22 candidates, each from a different country, recommended by the Security Council. A candidate from Sweden had previously withdrawn from the list. In accordance with the Tribunal's Statute, each candidate had to receive an absolute majority of votes from the UN's 184 Member States and the two non-member States with permanent observer missions -- the Holy See and Switzerland. Thus, a candidate had to receive at least 94 votes for election. The observer for the Holy See abstained from voting "in consideration of the Holy See's specific nature" and objectives.

The Assembly met again today to complete the voting for the remaining three seats. Meanwhile, the candidates from Peru, Sri Lanka and Switzerland had withdrawn from the list.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Jonathan Howe, today told correspondents at Headquarters that the United Nations involvement in the country had been a "good story" overall. He pointed out that some 300,000 Somalis had died of hunger last year, whereas practically none had died for want of food this year.

Admiral Howe said the United Nations was being challenged and obstructed on a daily basis by General Mohammed Farah Aideed's militia. UNOSOM II tried to avoid civilian casualties in every undertaking, but casualties could not be avoided when civilians were mixed in among attacking militiamen. He expressed satisfaction with UNOSOM II's military command, noting that troops from some 30 countries were working together despite differences in culture and training.

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Yesterday, Admiral Howe met for two hours with the Secretary-General and also discussed the rehabilitation of the Somali police with senior United Nations officials. He was scheduled to brief the Security Council this afternoon on the security situation in the country.

Meanwhile, two Italian privates were killed last night by sniper fire while jogging in Mogadishu, according to a United Nations spokesman. UNOSOM II troops fired back in the direction of the muzzle flashes and searched for the gunmen, but found nothing.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warned that if the current efforts of his mission of good offices in Cyprus do not succeed soon, he will have to invite the Security Council to consider alternative ways to promote effective implementation of its many resolutions on Cyprus. In a report to the Security Council dated 14 September, the Secretary-General said that the Turkish Cypriot side had not yet shown the goodwill and cooperation needed to achieve agreement on a package of confidence-building measures related to Varosha and Nicosia International Airport.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali proposes to send a team of experts to Cyprus in early October to address questions about the effects of the package, including those relating to the economic imbalance between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. He said he also planned to send a team of civil aviation experts there as soon as possible to assess the technical requirements for reopening Nicosia International Airport. The Secretary-General will report to the Security Council during the next two months on the outcome of his efforts and the work of the two teams.

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The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is ready to end the state of antagonism with Israel by considering a departure from the usual United Nations resolutions during the upcoming session of the General Assembly, the Observer for Palestine told the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People today. The PLO stance was a balanced one that took into account positive developments while upholding basic principles, M. Nassar Al-Kidwa said.

Describing the secret contacts that led up to the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, as well as the declaration of principles signed on Monday in Washington, Mr. Al-Kidwa said the "Oslo channel" had been opened largely because the Israeli Knesset had revoked the law banning all contact with the PLO. He went on to say that the central purpose of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's recent meeting with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had been to demonstrate the importance of United Nations involvement in implementing the declaration.

Mr. Al-Kidwa stressed that the declaration, which had been described in terms of its impact on the Gaza Strip and Jericho, would have a broader reach than those two areas.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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17 September 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council, in Presidential statement, deplores recent violence in Haiti and warns that it will reinstate sanctions if authorities do not comply with Governors Island Agreement; says security forces must make clear and immediate effort to end violence and intimidation.
- + Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal meet at Headquarters to discuss East Timor; agree on importance of promoting respect for human rights and creating non-confrontational atmosphere; agree to meet again with Secretary-General next May.
- + Working Group on 1994-1996 rehabilitation programme for Somalia completes first week of work in Washington, D.C.; Special Representative Jonathan Howe to meet with World Bank officials on Monday.
- + Secretary-General expresses condolences after sudden death in Geneva yesterday of Professor Torkel Opsahl of Norway, Acting Chairman of Commission of Experts investigating war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

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The Security Council today deplored the recent upsurge in violence in Haiti, particularly the events of 11 and 12 September, when at least 12 people were assassinated, including a prominent supporter of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, during a church service. In a statement read out by its President, Adolfo Raul Taylhardat (Venezuela), the Council expressed deep concern over the existence of organized armed civilian groups in Port-au-Prince who were attempting to interfere with the new Constitutional Government's assumption of its functions.

The Council said that the Constitutional Government must assume control over Haiti's security forces, and that those responsible for the activities of the civilian groups would be held accountable for them and removed from their functions. The Council urged the Haitian authorities to disarm the groups immediately.

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The Council called on the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, also in his capacity as a signatory of the Governors Island Agreement, to ensure immediate compliance with the letter and spirit of the Agreement. The Council said it would consider that the authorities were not complying with the Agreement if the security forces did not make a clear and immediate effort to end the violence and intimidation and to meet their responsibilities.

The Council warned that it would reinstate sanctions against Haiti if the Secretary-General informed it of serious and consistent non-compliance with the Governors Island Agreement.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today held meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal, as had been agreed at the last round of talks on the question of East Timor in Rome in April. The Secretary-General met separately with the Ministers and then chaired a joint meeting.

The Ministers concurred on the importance of promoting respect for all aspects of human rights -- civil, political, economic, social and cultural -- and for fundamental freedoms in East Timor, according to a United Nations spokesman. They also agreed on the need to create a favourable and non-confrontational atmosphere in order to allow effective progress towards a comprehensive settlement of the question.

Both Ministers reaffirmed the need for further "facilitating" access to East Timor by the United Nations and humanitarian and human rights organizations, the spokesman said. Following the discussions, they agreed to meet again with the Secretary-General in Geneva next May, following discussions between representatives of their two Governments in New York.

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The Working Group established by the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) and the World Bank to build a framework for the 1994-1996 rehabilitation programme for Somalia has completed its first week of work in Washington, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Group consists of representatives from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United States Agency for International Development, Italy, the European Community, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Working Group will complete a programme of work for the lead agencies that will be responsible for sectoral planning and reconstruction priorities in Somalia, including public administration, the civil service and physical infrastructure, the spokesman said. The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Jonathan Howe, will meet with World Bank officials in Washington on Monday.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed great sadness at the sudden death in Geneva yesterday of Professor Torkel Opsahl of Norway, Acting Chairman of the Commission of Experts investigating war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General, in a message of condolence to Professor Opsahl's widow, described his death as a great loss to the United Nations, the Commission of Experts and the international legal community.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1481

20 September 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in report on the work of the United Nations, says Organization played a pivotal role in establishing a more stable world order last year; notes gap between demands of Member States and resources provided by them.

+ General Assembly, concluding forty-seventh session, adopts resolutions on Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" and 1994 International Year of the Family.

+ Panel of Inquiry into Harbel massacre says Armed Forces of Liberia planned and executed killings; names three soldiers who should be prosecuted; says other major atrocities should be investigated in the interest of peace and reconciliation.

+ General Assembly elects last three judges for International Tribunal to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia.

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The United Nations has played a pivotal role in establishing a more stable world order in the last year, and is now understood to be humanity's best hope for peace, development and human rights, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report on the work of the United Nations dated 10 September, he said the Organization had served as a voice for the poorest countries, a deliverer of humanitarian relief, a guardian of human and minority rights, a rescuer of States in crisis and an instrument for repairing a damaged global environment. There had been substantial achievements in virtually every area, but there had also been serious set-backs and shortcomings as well.

The Secretary-General said three realities had become clear in the last year: the comprehensive nature of the global challenge, the indispensability of the United Nations and the gap between the demands made on the Organization by Member States and the resources provided by them. New levels of political will and intellectual creativity would be required to produce enduring

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achievements, but there was more potential than humanity had ever before conceived possible, he stressed.

Peace, development and democracy were interlocking and mutually reinforcing, the Secretary-General said. Without democracy, no sustainable development could occur; without such development, peace could not be maintained. Development was not just a matter of economic policy and resources; it involved political, social, educational and environmental considerations. He warned that until a new, workable and widely agreed concept of development had been achieved, the United Nations would continue to face a sequence of conflicts.

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The General Assembly today concluded its forty-seventh session by adopting resolutions on the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace" and the 1994 International Year of the Family. Under the resolution on "An Agenda for Peace", the Assembly acknowledged the importance of considering the use of preventive deployments and/or the establishment of demilitarized zones for the peaceful settlement of disputes. It reaffirmed that such actions should be undertaken with the consent of, and, in principle, on the basis of a request by, Member States involved. In another resolution, the Assembly decided to devote a plenary meeting of its next session to launch the International Year of the Family and to observe the International Day of Families each 15 May.

During the session, the Assembly adopted a total of 306 resolutions and admitted six new Member States -- Andorra, the Czech Republic, Eritrea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Monaco and the Slovak Republic. Some 75 per cent of those resolutions had been adopted without a vote, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said a trend appeared to be emerging, noting that only 65 per cent of the previous session's resolutions had been adopted without a vote.

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The Panel of Inquiry set up by the Secretary-General to investigate the massacre of nearly 600 persons near Harbel, Liberia, on 5/6 June has concluded that the killings were planned and executed by units of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL). In a document dated 10 September, the Panel named three AFL soldiers who had participated in the massacre, and recommended that criminal investigations be undertaken with a view to prosecuting them. The Security Council had said on 9 June that those responsible for the killings would be held accountable for their actions.

The Panel noted that a few stragglers or deserters from the United Liberation Movement for Democracy of Liberia (ULIMO) may have participated in the massacre on their individual initiative. The Panel cleared ULIMO, and the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and the Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), of direct involvement in the killings. However, it went on to say that the AFL's guilt did not

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mitigate or diminish the responsibility of the NPFL, ULIMO and others alleged to have engaged in similar atrocities against unarmed civilians throughout the conflict. It recommended that a number of major atrocities attributed to all parties to the conflict be investigated in the interest of reconciliation and building a solid foundation for peace.

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The General Assembly has elected the last three of 11 judges to serve on the International Tribunal established to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the former Yugoslavia. The judges, who will serve four-year terms as of 17 November, are: Adolphus Godwin Karibi-Whyte (Nigeria), Rustam S. Sidhwa (Pakistan), and Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica). They were elected on Friday from a list of candidates recommended by the Security Council. Eight judges had already been elected on Wednesday.

In accordance with the Tribunal's Statute, each candidate had to receive an absolute majority of votes from the 184 Member States of the United Nations and the two non-member States with permanent observer missions -- the Holy See and Switzerland. Thus, a candidate had to receive at least 94 votes for election. The observer for the Holy See abstained from voting "in consideration of the Holy See's specific nature" and objectives.

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DH/1482

21 September 1993

T U R S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + General Assembly, beginning forty-eighth session, elects Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana) as President; opening address stresses importance of Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace", UNCED's Agenda 21 and financial plight of United Nations.
- + Parties to conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina conclude Agreement on revised peace package; President Alija Izetbegovic to present package to Bosnian Assembly before signing can take place.
- + Secretary-General, marking International Day of Peace, says that while for many people peace may seem impossible, hope existed now in Middle East, El Salvador and Cambodia.
- + Advisor and financier to General Aideed among four Somalis detained by United States Quick Reaction Force; three Pakistani UNOSOM II peace-keepers killed, seven wounded, in Mogadishu ambush.

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The General Assembly began its forty-eighth session today by electing Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana) to the Presidency by acclamation. In his opening address, President Insanally said violent explosions in the wake of the ending of the cold war had given rise to doubts as to whether the goals of peace and prosperity would be achieved. However, the United Nations had been strengthened by the entry in the last year of many newly independent States as Members, including Andorra, the Czech Republic, Eritrea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Monaco and the Slovak Republic.

Mr. Insanally said he was encouraged by the new momentum towards peace in the Middle East following the signing of the Israel/Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Accord, and by the progress towards universal suffrage in South Africa. The problems of Afghanistan, Cambodia, El Salvador and Haiti had also yielded to diplomacy and negotiation. Meanwhile, civil strife and violence persisted in Somalia and in the former Yugoslavia, where "ethnic

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cleansing" -- an unacceptable euphemism for genocide and the acquisition of territory by force -- was on the rampage. The United Nations had to find answers to those problems in order to avoid future misfortune.

In a world so divided by conflict, peace-keeping and peace-building were obvious priorities, Mr. Insanally stressed, citing the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace". It made sense to devise a reliable system for financing United Nations peace operations. Peace also required development and international economic cooperation, he said and appealed to all States to cooperate in the implementation of "Agenda 21", the programme of action adopted at last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Recalling the Secretary-General's recent warning that the United Nations was on the verge of bankruptcy, the new President urged that the Organization be provided with sufficient human and financial resources to carry out its mission.

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The parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina have concluded an Agreement on a revised peace package, but have not yet signed it, as Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic first has to present the package to his Assembly, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, had said the Agreement indicated a "striking and important" dedication to achieving results.

The Agreement, which is to enter into force one week after being acted on by the Security Council, provides for a complete cessation of all hostilities and a withdrawal of forces. It confirms that the Union of Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue as a Member of the United Nations and contains an understanding that the Council will authorize a phased lifting of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The Agreement also gives the "Muslim majority Republic" access to the Adriatic Sea through the Port of Ploce.

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While the threat of nuclear war had receded, for many peoples around the world peace seemed an impossible dream, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said this morning in a statement marking the International Day of Peace. But, he continued, there were signs that peace was possible.

The United Nations mission was to make the dream of peace come true. For all the suffering and the setbacks, there had been successes, he continued. "There is hope today in the Middle East, where before there seemed to be no hope. There is hope as well in El Salvador and Cambodia," he said. "I am convinced that the list will grow longer to include Liberia, Somalia, South Africa, Central Asia and elsewhere."

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The United States Quick Reaction Force today detained four Somali men in Mogadishu, one of whom was identified as Osman Ato, a principal advisor and financier of General Mohamed Farah Aideed and his militia. One detainee was slightly wounded and some militia men may have been killed in the operation, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Meanwhile, a patrol of Pakistani peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) was ambushed in the city today, the spokesman said. Three soldiers were killed and seven were wounded when their armoured personnel carrier was fired on. Some 100 Pakistani soldiers later secured the area where the ambush took place.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1483
22 September 1993

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Security Council, in unanimous resolution, requests Secretary-General to take necessary steps to re-establish Somali police, judicial and penal systems; urges Member States to contribute to fund for that purpose; commends United Nations' achievements in Somalia and stresses importance of successful completion of UNOSOM II's mission by March 1995.
- + Security Council decides to establish United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia to monitor compliance with Cotonou Peace Agreement, in cooperation with ECOMOG.
- + Secretary-General recommends that Security Council renew UNPROFOR mandate for six months, warning of risk of further conflict in Croatia; to consider dividing Force into three parts, but with integrated command structure.
- + UNICEF, in report entitled "Progress of Nations", says developing world is making more progress on living standards than is generally recognized; cites rising incomes and life expectancy, and declining child death rates and malnutrition levels.
- + Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in message to Secretary-General, expresses hope that international community understands his dissolution of Parliament as measure to preserve democratic changes and economic reform.
- + President Eduard Shevardnadze appeals to Security Council and Secretary-General to help save Georgia from separatist forces besieging Sukhumi; says country is being forced into "abyss of annihilation".

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The Security Council this afternoon approved the Secretary-General's recommendations with regard to the re-establishment of the Somali police, judicial and penal systems, and requested him to take the necessary steps on

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an urgent and accelerated basis to implement them. By unanimously adopting resolution 865 (1993), it requested him to immediately undertake an international recruiting programme for staffing the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) Justice Division with the appropriate specialists. The Council urged Member States to contribute to the fund established for that purpose and for the establishment of the Somali police, or otherwise to provide assistance with personnel, financial support, equipment and training.

The Council commended the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and all the personnel of UNOSOM II for their achievements in greatly improving the conditions of the Somali people and beginning the process of nation-building. It condemned all attacks on UNOSOM II personnel and reaffirmed that those who had committed or had ordered the commission of such criminal acts would be held individually responsible for them.

The resolution also affirmed the importance the Council attached to the successful fulfilment on an urgent and accelerated basis of UNOSOM II's objectives, so that it could complete its mission by March 1995. In that context, it requested the Secretary-General to direct the urgent preparation of a detailed plan setting out the Operation's future strategy with regard to its humanitarian, political and security activities and to report to the Council on that as soon as possible.

* * *

The Security Council today decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for a period of seven months, subject to the proviso that it would continue beyond 16 December only upon a review by the Council on whether substantial progress had been made towards implementing the Cotonou Peace Agreement and other peace measures. The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 866 (1993).

The Council noted that UNOMIL would be the first peace-keeping mission undertaken by the United Nations in cooperation with a peace-keeping mission already set up by another organization, in this case the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It emphasized that the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) bore the primary responsibility for supervising implementation of the military provisions of the Peace Agreement.

UNOMIL will investigate reports of cease-fire violations and report to the Joint Cease-Fire Monitoring Committee (JCMC) established by the Peace Agreement and to the Secretary-General; monitor compliance with other elements of the Agreement, particularly regarding the arms embargo against Liberia and the disarmament and demobilization of combatants; observe and verify forthcoming elections; assist in humanitarian aid activities; and coordinate with ECOMOG, without participating in enforcement activities. UNOMIL will consist of military observers and medical, engineering, communications, transportation and electoral components, as well as a minimal support staff.

The Council welcomed the steps taken by the Secretary-General to establish a Trust Fund to aid the peace process in Liberia and called on all

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Member States to contribute to it. It also welcomed the establishment of a transitional Government and called on it to conclude a status of mission agreement with the United Nations to facilitate full deployment of UNOMIL.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council renew the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for six months from 30 September, when its current mandate expires. In a report dealing primarily with Croatia dated 20 September, the Secretary-General said that he had been "sorely tempted" to recommend the withdrawal of the Force because of criticism of it and the dangers to its personnel, but that such a step could only result in further conflict.

The Secretary-General said that should UNPROFOR's mandate be extended, he would give "favourable consideration" to a suggestion by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman that it be divided into three parts -- UNPROFOR (Croatia), UNPROFOR (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and UNPROFOR (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) -- while retaining an integrated command structure. He also suggested that the Council demand that the parties in Croatia conclude an immediate cease-fire and cooperate with UNPROFOR. To enhance the Force's security, he requested the extension of close air support to the Republic.

The report also suggested that the Council direct the parties to cooperate with UNPROFOR in restoring water, power, communications and other economic necessities, in order to improve the atmosphere in which the Force was working. The Council had demanded such cooperation in a resolution adopted in June. The Secretary-General said he would report to the Council by 30 November on progress made by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and by UNPROFOR, and might at that time make further recommendations, on the basis of developments and the course of negotiations between the parties.

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In a report released today entitled "Progress of Nations", the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said that the developing world was making more progress regarding the welfare of its peoples than is generally recognised. In little more than a generation, average real incomes had doubled, child death rates had halved, malnutrition rates had been reduced by about 30 per cent and life expectancy had increased by about a third.

However, much more could be done to combat malnutrition, disease and illiteracy, the report noted. On average, Governments of developing countries devoted only about 10 per cent of their annual budgets to nutrition, water supply, primary health care, primary education and family planning. Similarly, only 10 per cent of international development aid was specifically devoted to those purposes.

If the task of meeting minimum human needs had been made a priority in recent decades, the report said, "we would today be living in a world in which

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mass hunger, malnutrition and preventable disease were things of the past." Such a world would have less conflict, slower population growth and more manageable environmental problems, the report concluded.

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Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has written to the Secretary-General expressing his hope that the international community understands the necessity of the measures he took on Tuesday, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Yeltsin yesterday dissolved the Supreme Soviet and called elections for a new Parliament in December. In his letter, he said he had been motivated by the desire to preserve democratic changes and economic reforms.

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Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has appealed to the Security Council and the Secretary-General to help save his country from separatist forces besieging the city of Sukhumi. In a letter to the Council dated 20 September, he called on "all the peoples of the world" to save Georgia from "perishing in the fires of imperial reaction", saying that the aggression against the country was a well-coordinated and well-orchestrated collective blow.

The Georgian President said that neither resolutions of the Security Council nor statements by the Secretary-General nor peacemaking efforts by the Russian Federation had yielded any positive results in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict. He went on to express his gratitude to all those who were helping Georgia, which was being "forced into the abyss of annihilation".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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23 September 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council, in unanimous resolution, decides to establish and immediately dispatch United Nations Mission in Haiti to train Haitian police and modernize armed forces; asks Secretary-General to set up trust fund to provide additional funding for Mission.
- + General Assembly President says it is unacceptable for Secretary-General to have to solicit financial dues from Member States; says investment in United Nations is investment in peace, security and development
- + Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says Indonesia and Portugal must be more flexible on question of East Timor; stresses importance of improving human rights conditions in territory.
- + General Assembly General Committee recommends inclusion of 161 of 165 items proposed by Secretary-General for agenda of forty-eighth session; defers items on Malagasy Islands and East Timor in view of progress in ongoing negotiations.
- + Secretary-General meets with World Bank representatives to discuss next phase of rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia; Special Representative Jonathan Howe says UNOSOM II will assist in formation of interim Somali government in coming months.
- + UNTAC mandate to end tomorrow with proclamation of Constitution in Phnom Penh, election of King, and transformation of constitutional assembly into National Assembly.

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The Security Council today decided to establish and immediately dispatch the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) for a period of six months, subject to the proviso that it will be extended beyond 75 days only upon a review by the Council on whether substantial progress has been made towards

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implementing the Governors Island Agreement of 3 July and the political accords reached in New York. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 867 (1993).

UNMIH will consist of 567 United Nations Police Monitors (UNPMS) and a 700-strong military construction unit, including 60 military trainers. The UNPMS will train all levels of the Haitian police and monitor their operations. The military component in charge of modernizing the Haitian armed forces will provide non-combat training as determined by the Chief of the Mission and the Government of Haiti, while the military construction unit will carry out projects detailed in the Secretary-General's reports.

The Mission will come under the oversight of the Special Representative of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) so that it can benefit from information already obtained by the International Civilian Mission (MICIVIH). The resolution stressed the importance of close coordination between the OAS and the United Nations in their work in Haiti.

The Council encouraged the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund or make other arrangements to help pay for those Mission activities not covered by normal peace-keeping financing, and to make voluntary contributions to the fund. It also asked the Secretary-General to seek contributions of personnel from Member States. The resolution called on the Haitian Government to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel and freedom of movement and communications for UNMIH, and urged the Government to quickly conclude a status-of-mission agreement.

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Resources must be made available to strengthen the United Nations in the area of peace-keeping and peace-building, as proposed in the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace", General Assembly President Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana) told correspondents today. The Organization provided good value for money, and an investment in it was a long-term investment in global peace, collective security and development. It was "totally unacceptable", Mr. Insanally said, for the Secretary-General to have to keep soliciting the financial dues that were a legal obligation of all Member States.

Mr. Insanally said that "An Agenda for Peace" must be matched by an agenda for development, and that the stage had been set for a considered examination of the "development imperative" during the forty-eighth session. He also stressed the importance of the Secretary-General's proposals for reform and revitalization of the United Nations, which were essential, he said, to the achievement of peace, security and equitable development.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that Indonesia and Portugal must show greater flexibility in the interest of making progress on

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the question of East Timor. In a report on East Timor dated 20 September, the Secretary-General said he was "moderately encouraged" by the substance and tone of discussions with the Foreign Ministers of the two countries at Headquarters on 17 September. He noted that both sides had realized the need for confidence-building measures, although it had proved difficult to make progress on the core question owing to the wide difference in their positions.

The Secretary-General stressed that the improvement of human rights conditions in East Timor was a sine qua non for progress. He said he had been closely following developments relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms there in view of the continued concern of the international community. The Secretary-General had dispatched his Personal Envoy, Amos Wako, to East Timor and Indonesia in April, and Mr. Wako had reported to him on his findings and had made recommendations on how the human rights situation in the territory could be improved. Those recommendations had been conveyed to the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal.

According to the report, the Secretary-General will hold a new round of discussions with the Foreign Ministers in Geneva on 6 May 1994, following preparatory meetings in New York involving the Permanent Representatives of the two countries to the United Nations.

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The General Committee of the General Assembly yesterday recommended that the Assembly include 161 of 165 items proposed by the Secretary-General for the agenda of the forty-eighth session, which began on Tuesday. Items included cover the entire spectrum of United Nations activities, including political, disarmament, decolonization, economic, social and humanitarian affairs, as well as legal, administrative and budgetary questions.

The Committee did not recommend the inclusion of an item on "the exceptional situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan in the international context", which referred to the "established model of parallel representation of divided countries at the United Nations". Proposed items on the question of the Malagasy Islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India and on the question of East Timor were recommended for deferral to the Assembly's forty-ninth session, in view of progress being made in ongoing negotiations.

At the request of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the General Committee decided to change the wording of item 38 from "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa" to "Elimination of apartheid and establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa", and to recommend its inclusion on the agenda.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with representatives of the World Bank to discuss the Bank's participation in the next phase of Somalia's rehabilitation and reconstruction, according to a United Nations

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spokesman. The meeting was attended by representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Somalia, Jonathan Howe.

Admiral Howe confirmed that the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) expected to assist in the formation of an interim Somali government in the next few months, the spokesman said. As a prerequisite, it was important to establish a public administration that would become involved in the implementation of social and economic development programmes.

The World Bank will hold a Donors' Conference in Paris on 22 December, before which it will conclude the framework for the programme of transition from relief and recovery to reconstruction and development in Somalia. There will also be a Donors' Conference in Addis Ababa in the first week of November.

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The mandate of the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is scheduled to end tomorrow morning, according to a United Nations spokesman. There will be a promulgation of the Constitution at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, followed by a gathering outside to be addressed by various dignitaries including Prince Sihanouk and the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi.

The Council of Throne will then meet to elect a King, generally assumed to be Prince Sihanouk, the spokesman continued. The King will then sign an edict appointing the first and second Prime Ministers. The constitutional assembly will then be transformed into the National Assembly, bringing to an end the mandate of the United Nations in Cambodia.

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United Nations



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1485

24 September 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council, in statement issued by President, says that sanctions imposed by resolution 864 (1993) will come into force tomorrow night if cease-fire is not established in Angola and if UNITA does not implement Bicesse Peace Accords.
- + Secretary-General condemns renewed hostilities in Abkhazia, Georgia, particularly attacks on aircraft near Sukhumi; reiterates Security Council's call for cease-fire, citing upcoming negotiations in Geneva.
- + Iraq informs Special Commission on disarmament that it will no longer prevent activation of monitoring cameras at two rocket test stands, clearing way for resumption of technical talks in Baghdad.
- + Foreign Ministers of Guyana and Venezuela, meeting with Secretary-General and his Special Representative, reiterate their determination to settle controversy between their countries peacefully.
- + Welcoming installation of new democratic Government of Cambodia, Secretary-General congratulates Cambodian people and newly elected King Sihanouk on their achievement; says United Nations will continue to support Cambodia in years ahead.
- + Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, urges Greece and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to continue confidence-building efforts; says agreement on direct discussions shows that both countries want to resolve their differences.
- + ANC President Nelson Mandela calls for lifting of economic sanctions against South Africa but urges that mandatory sanctions relating to arms and nuclear matters be maintained until new government has been formed.
- + UNOSOM II Justice Division to certify reopening of Somali courts in Mogadishu on Monday, with 480 cases pending.

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The Security Council today said that unless the Secretary-General reported that an effective cease-fire was in place in Angola, and that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) was effectively implementing the Bicesse Peace Accords and relevant Council resolutions, the oil and arms embargo imposed by resolution 864 (1993) would come into force at midnight tomorrow. That resolution, which was adopted on 15 September, provided for a 10-day period before the imposition of sanctions against the territory of Angola not controlled by the Government.

In a statement issued today by its President, the Security Council insisted that UNITA fully respect and abide by the Bicesse Accords and that the parties should make every effort to restart negotiations. Resolution 864 (1993) was very clear in its provisions and the mandatory sanctions would be enforced if they were not satisfied. The Council warned that it would consider further measures if no action was forthcoming by 1 November.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said he was deeply saddened by the suffering inflicted on innocent civilians in Abkhazia, Georgia, as a result of the renewed fighting there, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General was particularly shocked by attacks on Georgian aircraft in the area of Sukhumi on 21, 22 and 23 September, which were reported to have resulted in numerous casualties.

It was deplorable that hostilities were continuing unabated despite the Security Council's call last week for the immediate restoration of the cease-fire, the Secretary-General said. He stressed that the Council's request should be heeded without delay, noting that a cease-fire would greatly help negotiations for a comprehensive political settlement due to begin in Geneva on 30 September under the auspices of Special Envoy Edouard Brunner.

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Iraq yesterday informed the Special Commission concerned with the disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction that it would no longer prevent the activation of the monitoring cameras installed by the Commission at two rocket test stands in the country. The Commission, in a press release issued today, said it had instructed the inspection team currently in Iraq to go ahead with activating and operating the cameras.

The Commission had made activation of the cameras a precondition for continuing the high level technical talks begun in New York on 31 August. Those talks will now be resumed in Baghdad. In preparation, an advance Commission team will go there next week to receive the information promised by Iraq during the meetings in New York.

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The Executive Chairman of the Commission is scheduled to arrive in Baghdad on 1 October with the aim of resolving all outstanding issues, in particular the initiation of ongoing monitoring and verification activities specified in plans approved by the Security Council.

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Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), today called for the lifting of economic sanctions against that country. Addressing the Special Committee against Apartheid, he said those sanctions had brought South Africa to the point where the transition to democracy had now been enshrined in the law of the country. Lifting them should not be seen as an act of abstention but as one of engagement, to create the best possible social and economic conditions for the victory of the democratic cause.

He stressed, however, that South Africans had not yet elected a democratic government and that the white minority Government should not be granted recognition and treated as if it were representative of all the people of South Africa. He urged that mandatory sanctions relating to arms and nuclear matters be maintained until a new government had been formed. "We would leave the issue of the oil embargo to the discretion of the Committee of the General Assembly responsible for the enforcement of this particular sanction," he added. He also asked the Security Council to begin considering what the Organization should do to assist in ensuring that the forthcoming elections were free and fair.

Yesterday, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with President F.W. de Klerk and congratulated him on the South African Parliament's historic approval of the establishment of the Transitional Executive Council. The Council will provide the country's first ever non-racial participation in government in the run-up to general elections next April. The Secretary-General said that he would strengthen the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA), and assured President de Klerk that the Organization was ready to help the people of South Africa to establish a democratic, non-racist State.

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The Foreign Minister of Guyana, Clement James Rohee, and the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Fernando Ochoa Antich, met today at Headquarters with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and his Special Representative Sir Alistair McIntyre. Both Ministers reiterated their Governments' determination to achieve a peaceful settlement of the controversy between the two States through the Good Offices of the Secretary-General, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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It was noted that the maintenance of dialogue was essential for achieving a lasting resolution of the matter, and that the Secretary-General had a significant role to play in that process. The Secretary-General stressed that his Office would continue to be at the disposal of both States, and complimented them on the cordial atmosphere in which their contacts and discussions were proceeding.

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Welcoming the installation this morning of the new Government of Cambodia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today congratulated the Cambodian people on their historic achievement. He said in a statement that under the guidance of Prince Norodom Sihanouk -- who was today elected King of Cambodia -- they had overcome two decades of strife and devastation and had laid a sound foundation for rebuilding a peaceful and democratic country.

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had thus ended its mandate today, the Secretary-General said. The successful conclusion showed what the international community could achieve when it was united and determined in pursuit of a worthy goal, and when the people concerned were willing to make mutual concessions. The Cambodian people and their Government would continue to need the assistance of the international community in the years ahead, he continued, and the United Nations would remain committed to supporting Cambodia as it faced the challenge of post-conflict nation building.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to continue their confidence-building efforts and to refrain from any action which might contribute to tension between them. In a report dated 22 September, the Secretary-General regretted that it had not been possible to resolve the differences between the two countries before the beginning of the General Assembly's forty-eighth session, as called for in Security Council resolution 845 (1993). However, he continued, by meeting in the presence of Cyrus Vance last month and agreeing to hold ongoing, direct discussions, both countries had demonstrated a desire to resolve the situation.

The recent dissolution of the Greek Parliament and the calling of elections for 10 October would not affect the direct talks, which would take place as scheduled at the end of this month, according to the report.

The Secretary-General stressed that the normalization of relations between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would contribute to peace and stability in the region, and pledged that he and Mr. Vance would stand ready to assist the parties in their efforts to resolve their differences.

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The Justice Division of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) will certify the reopening of Somali courts in Mogadishu on Monday, a United Nations spokesman said today. There are some 480 cases waiting to be heard by the courts.

As part of its mandate to reestablish the country's court system, UNOSOM II had set up the Judiciary Reestablishment Council (JRC) -- comprised entirely of Somalis -- to select judges and monitor developments. The JRC has established a Court of Appeals and a Regional Court in Mogadishu, and four district courts elsewhere in the country.

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Correction:

In the Daily Highlights of Thursday, 23 September 1993, the first sentence in the third paragraph on page 4 should have read: "The World Bank will hold a Donors' Conference in Paris on 22 October, before which it will conclude the framework for the programme of transition from relief and recovery to reconstruction and development in Somalia."

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1486

27 September 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + President of United States addressing opening meeting of General Assembly's general debate, says his country will work in partnership with other States but act unilaterally when its core interests are threatened; United States to pay outstanding peace-keeping dues in coming weeks.
- + President of Colombia says free trade is best contribution industrialized world can make to consolidate democracy and freedom in developing countries.
- + President of Mozambique thanks international community for help in successful conclusion of 1992 General Peace Agreement; cease-fire has held and national reconstruction is underway.
- + President of El Salvador says his country, freed from conflict between authoritarian stagnation and revolutionary radicalism, is striving to build structures of peace.
- + Crown Prince of Monaco, in commitment to environment, offers to host preparations for possible international year of seas and oceans.
- + Prime Minister of Japan says his country feels remorse for past actions and is resolved to make further contributions to the goals of world peace and prosperity.
- + Brazil's Minister of External Relations says democratic ideal should apply to composition of Security Council.
- + Morocco's Foreign Minister tells General Assembly that international agenda ignores economic interests of developing countries.
- + Egypt's Minister for Foreign Affairs says mutual recognition by Israel and PLO is major step towards just solution of Palestinian question.

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President Bill Clinton of the United States, addressing the General Assembly as it began its general debate this morning, said that the United States intended to remain engaged and to lead on the world stage. It would work in partnership with other States, but would act unilaterally when there was a threat to its core interests. He also pledged that the United States would be current on its peace-keeping bills within the next few weeks, but added that the basic assessment system should be changed so that other States could bear more of the financial burden.

President Clinton stressed the importance of non-proliferation, conflict resolution and sustainable development. Halting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction -- nuclear, chemical and biological -- and the missiles that carried them was an urgent priority, as such weapons could turn a local conflict into a global human and environmental catastrophe. He called on all States to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention so that it might enter into force by 13 January 1995.

United Nations peace-keeping capabilities had not kept pace with the Organization's rising responsibilities, the President went on to say. Every proposed mission should be carefully analyzed and questions asked about cost and effectiveness. The United Nations could not become engaged in every conflict, he said. It must learn when to say "no", if the American people were to say "yes" to peace-keeping.

President Clinton expressed support for the Secretary-General's efforts to reform the United Nations, noting that corporations around the world were trying to improve service, reduce bureaucracy and cut costs. The Organization should establish an Office of Inspector General with a strong mandate to root out waste. He also stressed the importance and universal nature of human rights, and said a High Commissioner for Human Rights was needed.

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The President of Colombia, César Gaviria, today told the General Assembly that his nation had invested its hopes for development and well-being in free trade, as the best contribution the industrialized world could make to consolidate democracy and freedom in emerging countries. Colombia, he said, asked for free trade, not economic aid, and for open markets, not mere assistance.

From its inception, President Gaviria said, the United Nations had had the dual mission of maintaining international peace and security, and of promoting social and economic development for all people of the world. While there had been success in advancing collective global security, there had not been equivalent success in social welfare and economic development. He called on the international community to achieve an agenda for development. Only then, he said, could permanent peace be realized.

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In an address to the General Assembly, President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique today thanked the international community for its help in the successful conclusion of the General Peace Agreement in Rome last October. Almost a year had elapsed without any major breach of the cease-fire and economic and social activities were reviving in Mozambique. Refugees were returning and resettling, infrastructure was being rebuilt, and foreigners were seeking investment opportunities in the country.

Sixteen years of war had caused some \$20 billion worth of damage and had displaced some six million people in Mozambique, and humanitarian aid would be required for some years to come, President Chissano said. The success of the national reconstruction plan would depend in part on the generous support of the international community. He went on to say that the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) had been delaying implementation of the Peace Agreement, but pledged that his Government would spare no effort in making sure that multi-party elections were held in due time.

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Alfredo Félix Cristiani-Burkard, the President of El Salvador, today said his country was one of the first to benefit from the United Nations' new approach to peace-keeping. He told the General Assembly that El Salvador saw itself as setting an example, as a country that had broken out of the strait-jacket imposed by the conflict between authoritarian stagnation and revolutionary radicalism. Now it needed technical and economic support to swiftly build the structures of peace, and to wipe away the discouraging memory that it was easier to find financing for war than for peace.

With his presidential mandate ending in June 1994, this was the last time he would be addressing the General Assembly, Mr. Cristiani-Burkard said. On behalf of El Salvador, he thanked the United Nations, the Security Council, the former and current Secretaries-General and all others who had helped the country place itself on the road to peace.

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The Government of Monaco had set itself the priority of protecting both its cultural and natural environment, Crown Prince Albert of Monaco told the General Assembly this afternoon, in his country's first participation in the Assembly since its recent admission as a Member State. Speaking on behalf of his father, Prince Rainier III, he said the Principality had undertaken major efforts with respect to the environment, particularly to combat all forms of pollution which menaced and contaminated the Mediterranean.

Monaco encouraged the creation of institutions on its territory to prepare for the adoption of a resolution by the Assembly making 1998 the international year of the seas and oceans, the Crown Prince continued. Though it had neither armed forces nor military arsenals, Monaco was fully prepared to assist all actions undertaken by the United Nations to maintain and rebuild peace.

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Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa of Japan today told the General Assembly that he had come to the United Nations on his first official visit abroad because the Organization had a crucial role to play in the maintenance of peace and security. He also wanted to convey personally Japan's determination to contribute both financially and in terms of personnel to various United Nations efforts. He stressed that his country felt a sense of remorse over its past actions and was firmly resolved to make further contributions to the goals of world peace and prosperity.

The rapid expansion of peace-keeping operations had made it increasingly difficult for the United Nations to meet its financial needs promptly, the Prime Minister said. Without adequate financial resources, the Organization would be powerless to engage in any activity, no matter how meaningful it might be. It was important for all Member States to fulfill their obligations to the United Nations. He expressed concern over allegations of inefficiency and wastefulness in the Organization and said better financial discipline and budgetary control were needed.

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Brazil's Minister of External Relations, Celso Luiz Nunes Amorim, told the General Assembly today that with the virtual elimination of the last remnants of colonialism, the international agenda now centred on democracy, development and disarmament. The democratic ideal was as applicable in international relations as it was in domestic politics, and there was a need to update the composition of the Security Council. The Council had a growing role in matters affecting Member States and a more representative composition would enhance its legitimacy and efficiency.

Brazil vigorously supported the idea of an agenda for development and attached great importance to the Commission on Sustainable Development, Mr. Amorim said. The commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which was held last year in Rio de Janeiro, must be put into effect. He went on to say that the Brazilian Government was strengthening its presence in the Amazon in order to protect indigenous populations and the environment, both of which were frequently exposed to predatory activities.

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Abdellatif Filali, Morocco's Minister for Foreign Affairs, today told the General Assembly that while the United Nations had a vital role, its effectiveness was limited by the "inadaptation" of its Charter and by a lack of financial resources. He also said that the economic interests of the developing world were not mentioned in the international agenda. Morocco firmly believed in the universal character and comprehensive nature of human rights. However, the concept of human rights should be attuned to the values,

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culture, traditions and levels of development of different countries. The political aspect of human rights should not prevail over the social and economic dimensions, which covered such basic needs as food, health care and shelter.

Mr. Filali warned that efforts to maintain international peace and security and settle disputes would be futile as long as the socio-economic imbalances between developed and developing countries continued to increase daily. Rich countries should open their markets, increase their investments in developing countries, alleviate debt burdens and increase technology transfers, he said, noting that the economic and social situation in the Southern Hemisphere could threaten security, stability and development in the north.

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Egypt's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Amre Moussa, today told the General Assembly that mutual recognition by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was a major step towards a just solution of the Palestinian question, which had cast a shadow on the Middle East and the world as a whole. He called on the peoples of the region to develop a system of relations based on equal security, the non-use of force and the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. He also called on all States in the Middle East, particularly Israel, to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to renounce the possession, use or threat of use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Mr. Moussa went on to say that developments in the Horn of Africa affected the security of the Middle East and Africa in General. He welcomed the independence of Eritrea and its membership of the United Nations and expressed support for Somalia's hopes for a secure future and national reconciliation. The people of Somalia should be free to express their will without being blackmailed by power-seekers who instigated policies of destruction and annihilation, he said.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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28 September 1993

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Uzbekistan, Niger, Croatia, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Israel, Belgium (also on behalf of the European Community), United Kingdom and Sweden among speakers in General Assembly's general debate today.
- + Norway, Tunisia, Australia, Côte d'Ivoire, Iceland, Chile, Djibouti and Albania among speakers in general debate yesterday.
- + UNPROFOR and NATO Commanders meet in Zagreb today to discuss setting up permanent joint staff for possible implementation of Bosnian peace plan.
- + Secretary-General of Pan Africanist Congress of Azania tells Anti-Apartheid Committee that international sanctions against South Africa should remain in place pending election of majority government; calls Transitional Executive Council "dummy institution".
- + Greece and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia hold second direct meeting under auspices of Mediator Cyrus Vance; defer further talks until after Greek elections on October 10th.

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In an address to the General Assembly today, Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan, expressed concern about the conflict in Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan border, stressing that it should be settled on the basis of international efforts. Uzbekistan would welcome the convening of a United Nations seminar on security, stability and cooperation in Central Asia, he said. The parties could discuss the possibility of setting up a system of regional security to preserve and restore peace through the use of collective sanctions of a diplomatic, financial and economic nature. He condemned extremism, terrorism, religious fanaticism and fundamentalism in any form and said his country was willing to provide further humanitarian aid to the Tajik people.

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Mr. Karimov also expressed concern about the problem of the illegal drug trade, saying that large-scale cooperation was needed to tackle it. He noted that a great deal of the narcotics consumed throughout the world originated in Central Asia, and said Uzbekistan would readily work with all countries and organizations to eliminate the "narcobusiness".

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President Mahamane Ousmane of Niger told the General Assembly today that it was essential that ways be found to curb the economic decline of more and more countries into least developed status. He called on the developed countries to demonstrate greater solidarity with them by agreeing to completely cancel the debts of the least developed countries. Niger had expected such a decision after the recent meeting of the Group of Seven most industrialized countries, he said, but regrettably they had not made it possible for the debtor countries to improve their repayment capability.

President Ousmane said he hoped that the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development would be an opportunity for the rich and the poor to join hands in the fight against famine and malnutrition. Also, in a few days, at the initiative of the Japanese Government there would be a conference on development in Africa, and Niger hoped that the necessary radical measures would emerge from that meeting to help resolve the problems of the African continent.

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Croatian President Franjo Tudjman today told the General Assembly that the examples of Croatia and of Bosnia and Herzegovina demonstrated the weaknesses of the United Nations peace-keeping model. The classic mandate -- freezing the situation with a cease-fire -- did not resolve the conflict, but created new complications. In undertaking peace-keeping operations, some States tried to pursue their own policies and not the policy of the Security Council.

Reform required better use of diplomatic, economic, political and military pressure, and consistency in the implementation of peace-keeping mandates, President Tudjman continued. That approach, involving the selective use of force, could have prevented the escalation of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and reduced casualties among peace-keepers. Peace-keeping forces should be better trained and equipped for special missions, and the United Nations should have greater authority in the sensitive conduct of operations.

The President argued that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia had been misused by Serbian extremists and their promoters to freeze territorial gains and continue ethnic cleansing. The international community had allowed the Serbs to ignore Security Council resolutions, in spite of the fact that they had been clearly defined. If UNPROFOR's mandate

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was not amended within the next 48 hours in terms of an energetic implementation of relevant resolutions, Croatia would be forced to renounce the Force and ask it to leave the country by 30 November.

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The President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, today called on the developed countries to fulfil the target set 24 years ago by the General Assembly, of devoting 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance. He called too for an open and equitable international trading system to ensure the success of economic reform programmes undertaken by the African States.

While realizing that Africa's development was primarily their own responsibility, he said, those States had proceeded courageously to implement their side of the commitment made with the international community when the New Agenda for the Development of Africa was adopted in 1991. They had promoted regional and sub-regional economic cooperation and integration and sought to create an enabling environment for foreign and domestic investment. He therefore called on the international community to buttress those efforts by decisively addressing the problem of the continent's crushing debt burden.

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The President of Lithuania, Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas, today asked the United Nations to safeguard the interests of small states. Speaking in the General Assembly's general debate, he said that the future of a more integrated world lay in the democracy and individuality of free nations. The international community should be prepared to defend, with force if necessary, the sovereignty of even the smallest nations.

He warned that after the initial wave of euphoria about gaining democracy and freedom, continuing hardships could bring disillusionment in the post-communist countries. The world community could not afford to remain indifferent to that danger, he stressed. But it appeared that even the most authoritative international organizations lacked the coordinated action and initiative to provide effective assistance. Nostalgia still prevailed in many countries for the time when authoritarian governments guaranteed people their minimum needs, albeit at the expense of their freedom, and isolationist tendencies in the industrialized countries could greatly complicate the development of those countries, he said.

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Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told the General Assembly today that the world community must focus on democracy, which was the main guarantee of security and development, and peace-making as the twenty-first century approached. The Russian Federation had made peace-making and the protection of human rights, particularly the rights of national minorities, its priority in foreign policy, first of all in the territory of the former Soviet Union. He called on all Members States to support proposals submitted by members of

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the Commonwealth of Independent States to the present session relating to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the struggle against international terrorism, and the protection of the environment.

Mr. Kozyrev proposed that a clear-cut concept of political leadership be defined on the part of the Security Council, that an effective United Nations military command be created under the Secretary-General's supervision, and that a procedure for the involvement of regional organizations be established. He also proposed the establishment of a special Council committee to improve the practices of peace-keeping operations, and said "stand-by" forces should be created for use on a case-by-case basis. A permanent international tribunal to deal with crimes against humanity would help prevent the recurrence of atrocities, he added.

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Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres today told the General Assembly that the time had come to lay the foundations for a new Middle East, saying that the scope of regional security must exceed the range of ballistic missiles. Israel had already reached agreement with Jordan on many complicated issues, and a full peace could be achieved between the two. He urged Syria to work for peace and Lebanon to return to a balanced policy, and to not be a "backyard for troublemakers". He added that wisdom was needed as much as financial support.

Mr. Peres stressed that the Middle East had great economic potential, and referred to the possibility of a "common market" in the region. Industry, agriculture, infrastructure, communications and tourism should all be developed. Unwarranted confrontation should be replaced with much-needed economic competition. Israel was determined to make the Agreement with the Palestinians a success and was committed to their economic advancement and security.

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In his address to the General Assembly today, Willy Claes, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Belgium, stressed the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. Speaking also in his capacity as President of the European Community's Council of Ministers, Mr. Claes said such organizations must become effective centres of decision and action, with a capacity for swift intervention on a regional scale.

Areas of stability, such as the European Community, should be established in every continent, with broad regional mechanisms to develop principles of peaceful and prosperous co-existence, he said. Neither the European Community nor the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) had been able to prevent the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, but the member States had learned that the deepening of their own internal relations -- more Europe rather than less Europe -- would strengthen the Community's role in promoting stability and peace in Europe and neighbouring areas.

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Regional integration could help contain the collective frustrations and anxieties which fuelled nationalist movements, Mr. Claes continued. It also provided a formidable incentive for economic growth and therefore a strategic element in combating poverty. Regional economic integration, he stated, increasingly eliminated the option of war from the thinking of the governments and peoples involved.

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Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, said today that everyone had to take responsibility for the decisions of the United Nations, for its successes and its failures. It was necessary to examine the tasks asked of it, he said, to ensure that they were defined properly and that the resources were available to meet them. If a mandate could not be fulfilled, it should not be given.

With respect to peace-keeping, he continued, unity of command at the highest levels was essential. For that reason, the United Kingdom had suggested that the creation of an expanded Planning and Operations Staff for Peace-keeping, based in New York, to provide the United Nations with the "nervous system" for which its present staff was not equipped. Britain had also welcomed recent senior appointments in the financial and administrative areas and proposals for a system of inspection "with teeth". The United Nations, he went on, would always be short of money, even if everyone paid up in full and on time. But it would be able to afford more operations if it ran the existing ones more economically.

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Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas today said that the United Nations should be able to react flexibly to dynamic situations in peace-keeping operations, with better provisions for planning and operations staff. She proposed that a forum for coordination and the exchange of information between the Security Council and troop contributors be set up for each major operation, and said United Nations colleges should be established to train peace-keepers. She urged Member States to pay their dues to the Organization, so that its credibility and prestige would not be undermined, but said the scale of assessments should be adjusted in accordance with the principle of capacity to pay.

The Foreign Minister stressed the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, citing the agreement signed by the Organization and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in May. She also welcomed the statement by the Security Council that progress in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation could make a crucial contribution to the maintenance of peace and security. An early agreement on a comprehensive test ban would enhance that concept, she said.

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Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Bruntland told the General Assembly yesterday that the recent Accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which had been promoted by Norway, showed that even the deepest trench could be bridged. It was time to mobilize political and financial resources to aid the peace process, she said, adding that the economic situation in Gaza and in the West Bank called for immediate and extensive economic aid. Norway would provide substantial assistance and would continue to play a political role if the parties so desired.

The Prime Minister went on to say that ethnic nationalism was a threat to peace and stability everywhere, and that the doctrine of the ethnic state was a prescription for war. The task was to build communities which included, rather than excluded, and to make all multi-ethnic regions safe refuges of diversity. She called for a negotiated solution to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, stressing that Norway fully supported the efforts of international mediators Thorvald Stoltenberg and David Owen. International attention was focused on the terrible ordeal of the Muslims, but Croats and Serbs were also suffering, she said, stressing that humanitarian assistance should be evenhanded.

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Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia, in an address to the General Assembly yesterday, welcomed recent developments in the Middle East peace process, and appealed to the international community to bring about a just settlement of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He noted that his country and Algeria had recently concluded an agreement settling the boundary between them.

Mr. Ben Yahia said that the development of the Maghreb and the activities of the Maghreb Arab Union were in keeping with the current emphasis on regional groupings. He welcomed the process of change in South Africa and expressed satisfaction at the machinery recently developed by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for resolving disputes within Africa. He spoke of the dangers of extremism and terrorism, which were also masked in the guise of religion, and said the international community must redouble its efforts to defend a legal framework to combat such forms of terrorism.

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Australia's Foreign Minister, Gareth Evans, told the General Assembly yesterday that economic and social deprivation continued to be a harsh reality in the world. The developed economies were limping and had failed to reach agreement on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) trade liberalization measures so necessary to kick-start world trade and economic growth. In the non-Western world, rates of growth had been very uneven, with spectacular advances in some regions, in particular East Asia, and continuing poverty in others.

Mr. Evans noted that there was no universal agreement on the problems which justified a security response by the international community. Australia

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had prepared a study entitled "Cooperating for Peace" which suggested ways of clarifying the vocabulary used to define security problems. The criteria for embarking on peace operations -- whether peace-keeping or peace enforcement -- must be a clear-minded focus on objectives, and the likely effectiveness of the operation. The study contained one sustaining idea -- cooperative security -- which embraced common security and collective security. It emphasized reassurance rather than deterrence, and was inclusive rather than exclusive, he said.

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Amara Essy, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, told the General Assembly yesterday that the primacy accorded in recent years to human rights, democracy and development had given rise to hope. The World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna had been a pivotal event, and had reaffirmed the right to development. However, the world economy was weak; developed economies were in recession, and development in Africa had been impaired by depressed commodity prices.

Mr. Essy went on to say that effective economic integration was required for Africa's development, citing the examples of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Development Bank. International assistance was also needed in tandem with actions to address inequities at the macroeconomic level. He stressed the importance of concluding an international convention to combat desertification, and said the North-South dialogue must be revived to eradicate underdevelopment and poverty.

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In his address to the General Assembly yesterday, Iceland's Foreign Minister, Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson, said that if the Organization was to maintain credibility in the wake of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), it must take real action and achieve real results. The programme of action contained in "Agenda 21" provided a sound basis for individual and joint activities aimed at sustainable development, but did not cover all activities harmful to the environment.

As a nation overwhelmingly dependent on marine living resources, Iceland had supported efforts to establish an international regime covering all aspects of the uses of the oceans, Mr. Hannibalsson continued. In 1985, Iceland had ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provided a widely acceptable regime for the exploitation of the world's marine resources and established rules for a wide range of uses for the seas, thus reducing the potential for conflict among States. Iceland strongly supported the transformation of the Rio Declaration into an "Earth Charter", which defined States' responsibilities and rights of States in respect of the environment, before the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995.

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Chile's Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma told the General Assembly yesterday that his country had always viewed economic development as inseparable from social development. He noted that the Chilean initiative for the convening of a world summit for social development had been positively received. The meeting, to be held in Copenhagen in 1995, would demonstrate the effectiveness of the United Nations in searching for solutions to global problems. The eradication of poverty, hunger and other social scourges was the task of the international community as a whole, under the leadership of the United Nations.

Chile advocated the strengthening of the role of the Secretary-General, particularly in relation to preventive diplomacy, the Foreign Minister went on to say. The membership of the Security Council should also be increased with a view to strengthening the United Nations. The various regions of the world should be duly represented, although the right of veto should not be extended to new permanent members. Therefore, he raised the possibility of the Council comprising permanent members, permanent members without the right of veto, regional members with an extended term and non-permanent members.

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Abdou Block, Foreign Minister of Djibouti, yesterday told the General Assembly that the United Nations was suffering from poor structuring. He called for the establishment of a rapid deployment force as an element of preventive diplomacy, and for the expansion of the membership of the Security Council to represent all regions of the world. He said that the Organization was suffering from an inability to mobilize peace-keeping forces, citing the examples of Mozambique, Bosnia and to a lesser degree, Somalia. He urged States to fulfil their obligations to the United Nations Operation in Somalia, as its success depended upon adequate financing.

Mr. Block said his country had instituted both financial and political reforms, but had been weakened by turmoil in the region. While Djibouti was stable and a refuge in a region subject to instability, it struggled to maintain its place in the world.

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Alfred Serreqi, Minister For Foreign Affairs of Albania, yesterday welcomed the presence in the General Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, whose stability, territorial integrity and international recognition were of great importance to the stability of the Balkans. The long war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other complex political developments had hindered efforts to restore Albania's ruined economy and promote the democratic process in the region. The United Nations must resort to all means at its disposal to implement the principles of the Charter and to make peace in the former Yugoslavia. Sanctions must be applied against the Belgrade authorities until a definitive solution to the crisis was found, including an overall improvement of the situation in Kosovo.

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The Albanian factor in the former Yugoslavia, especially with regard to Kosovo, was of crucial importance, Mr. Serreqi continued. The international community must take urgent measures to prevent the Bosnian tragedy from recurring in Kosovo. Albania had made it clear that placing Kosovo under the control and protection of the United Nations was the only way to prevent conflict and discourage the "silent ethnic cleansing" that Serbia was practicing there, he said.

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General Jean Cot, Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), and Admiral Mike Boorda, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Allied Forces South Commander, met in Zagreb today to discuss the setting up of a permanent joint staff to facilitate possible implementation of the peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a statement issued by UNPROFOR.

A permanent NATO-UNPROFOR coordination staff would be located at Force Headquarters in Zagreb and at Kiseljk in Bosnia and Herzegovina and would be expanded upon acceptance of the plan by the parties.

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Benny Alexander, Secretary-General of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), today said that international sanctions against South Africa should remain in place pending the adoption of the new constitution and the election of a government controlled by the African majority. Addressing the Special Committee against Apartheid, he said that lifting sanctions now would only benefit the well-educated white minority, since the majority of multinational corporations involved in South Africa were technology intensive, rather than labour intensive.

He called South Africa's Transitional Executive Council a "dummy institution -- a typical colonialist trick to co-opt the natives". The PAC had decided not to take part in the work of the Council, which would be co-existing with the apartheid government and over whose decisions the De Klerk regime maintained key powers of veto. The PAC would continue to participate in negotiations, however, and would run for elections to the constituent assembly which would draft a new constitution, he said.

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The delegations of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have concluded their second direct meeting pursuant to Security Council resolution 845 (1993), mediator Cyrus Vance said in a statement issued today. The meeting took place in a cordial and business-like atmosphere.

Both parties had agreed that further direct talks on the remaining issues between them should be deferred until after the Greek elections on 10 October, according to Mr. Vance. He said he would stand ready to facilitate the process, as requested by the Secretary-General.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1488

29 September 1993

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Security Council, in unanimous resolution, sets out security and safety requirements for establishment of United Nations operations; host countries must take appropriate measures and conclude status-of-operation agreements.
- + Paraguay, Latvia, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Canada, Slovenia, Germany, China, and France among speakers in General Assembly's general debate today.
- + Romania, Argentina, Denmark, Guinea, Poland, Sierra Leone, Honduras and Angola among speakers in general debate yesterday.
- + Secretary-General and President of Eritrea to sign agreement tomorrow on establishment of United Nations Integrated Office in Asmara.
- + Epidemic of optic neuritis which struck 50,000 people in Cuba earlier this year no longer spreading according to WHO; about 1,500 reported to have suffered severe loss of vision.

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The Security Council today said that when considering the establishment of future United Nations operations, it would require, inter alia, that the host country take all appropriate steps to ensure the security and safety of the operation and its personnel; that related arrangements undertaken by the host country extend to all persons engaged in the operation; and that an agreement on the status of the operation and all its personnel in the host country be negotiated quickly and should come into force as near as possible to the outset of the operation.

The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 868 (1993), in which it welcomed the Secretary-General's report of 27 August on the security of United Nations operations. The Council asked the Secretary-General to take into account the provisions of the resolution when recommending the establishment or renewal of a United Nations operation. It

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also encouraged him to take forward those measures proposed in his report which fell within his responsibilities to ensure that security matters were an integral part of the planning for an operation.

The Council urged States and parties to a conflict to cooperate closely with the Organization to ensure the security and safety of United Nations forces and personnel. The Council said attacks and the use of force against persons engaged in a United Nations operation authorized by it would be considered interference with the exercise of the Council's responsibilities and might require it to consider appropriate measures. If the host country was unable or unwilling to meet its security and safety obligations, the Council said it would consider what appropriate steps should be taken.

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President Juan Carlos Wasmosy of Paraguay today told the General Assembly that his country had carried out extraordinary reforms in the political and social systems without external assistance. The Government aimed to use stability and security to ensure that those who were working could enjoy the fruits of their labour. Democracy and equality were the only paths to justice and harmony. The people of Paraguay had made considerable sacrifices to achieve democracy, he said, adding that rapid population growth and a shortage of resources had been the main obstacles to success.

The President called on United Nations agencies and international financial institutions to redouble their efforts to aid developing countries, to control costs and to improve efficiency. He said that the stability of democratic countries depended on the integrity of Governments and officials, and stressed that the Government of Paraguay intended to punish any kind of corruption. He also underlined the importance of free trade and the expansion of markets worldwide, and expressed the hope that the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks would be completed successfully.

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Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis today told the General Assembly that the reestablishment of Latvia's independence and the restoration of its Constitution in 1991 were testimony to the power of democracy, human endurance and the supremacy of international law. He stressed that Latvia was not a newly independent State; while it had lost its sovereignty and independence de facto between 1918 and 1991, its status as a State had continued de jure.

President Ulmanis said that the most urgent matter confronting Latvia was the continued illegal presence in the country of the military forces of the former Soviet Union, now under the control of the Russian Federation. For more than two years, Latvia had sought the removal of those forces through bilateral negotiations and with the assistance of the international community. The General Assembly had called on the Baltic States and the Russian Federation to conclude withdrawal agreements without delay. Latvia wanted an assurance that its sovereignty, independence and territorial

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integrity would be respected and that a threat to international peace and security would not arise from its territory. Mr. Ulmanis expressed the hope that negotiations with the Russian Federation, which had begun yesterday, would soon lead to a withdrawal agreement.

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The President of Nicaragua, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, told the General Assembly today that her country had been a symbol of war and of hope in this decade. Only with international assistance could it continue to be a symbol of hope. Since 1990, when the Assembly called on the international community to offer Nicaragua "effective and efficient" support, her country had fulfilled all agreements and commitments with that community and with multilateral institutions. Now, she said, it needed additional resources to activate its production and economic growth, to strengthen social networks and to reactivate conciliation.

Mrs. Chamorro said she believed that countries in transition from war to peace, which had signed international agreements to attain total pacification, democracy and reconstruction, should have access to a special fund, to enable them to "stand again and go forward". Without exceptional support they could not compete with nations that had not suffered the political, economic and social destruction resulting from war. The appeal for help, she stressed, was made with the conviction that her Government held the primary responsibility for preventing democracy from regressing.

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The President of Bolivia, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, warned today that under present circumstances man had to destroy nature and the environment to survive. Addressing the General Assembly, he said that the end of the cold war had not translated into an increase in international cooperation and solidarity. At least during the era of confrontation, there was greater cooperation in self-defence against the communist danger. Now poor countries were faced with the curtailment of assistance while the prices of their raw materials were plummeting and protectionist barriers in the industrialized markets were rising higher.

Population growth, the destruction of the environment, production of illegal drugs, urban migration -- all were problems afflicting the poor countries, but their effects were felt throughout the world, he said. Those problems could only be resolved through greater economic and social development. Bolivia would have to prepare for a period of sustainable development in order to improve the living conditions of its people, especially in the rural sector. Economic growth could significantly reduce the role of coca production, opening up possibilities for its gradual elimination. Bolivia, he stated, was committed to completely halting drug production and trafficking.

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Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell told the General Assembly this afternoon that a panel of civilian and military experts should be charged with assessing proposals on the enhancement of the Organization's peace-keeping capacity. Canada, having participated in virtually every United Nations military operation, had a number of proposals in that regard. She suggested, among other things, that a permanent strategic headquarters staff capable of controlling two or more large-scale, multi-dimensional operations be established, and that Member States commit themselves to provide troops on a stand-by basis, as Canada had done in the past year, to improve the Organization's ability to rapidly deploy forces to emerging flashpoints.

United Nations Members had to develop the large cadres of peace-keepers necessary for future missions, she stressed. Training was the key to integrating different national contingents, particularly for a corps of senior officers who would have to exercise leadership in complex, difficult and dangerous situations. To ensure that field operations met high standards, a common code of conduct should be concluded soon, she said. It was also necessary to come to grips with the increasingly serious dangers facing peace-keepers.

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Janez Drnovsek, Prime Minister of Slovenia, today told the General Assembly that when countries with totalitarian regimes and no democratic movements had been confronted with the end of the bipolar world, the resulting ideological vacuum had led to nationalism, expansionism and violations of human rights. Such changes had tested the principles of international cooperation, and the United Nations had to adapt to the new challenges. He identified a need for further evolution in the field of international law, given that international interdependence was reducing the scope of matters essentially within the state's domestic jurisdiction, while the scope of legitimate international action was expanding. That process provided an opportunity for further protection of human and minority rights and of the environment.

In the last two years, Slovenia had unilaterally restricted its own military potential, the Prime Minister continued. However, it remained subject to the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council on the former Yugoslavia. Instead of producing the desired effect, the embargo had prevented the victims of aggression from defending themselves. It was time for the Council to reconsider the embargo and adjust it to realities. He went on to say that 70,000 refugees were living in Slovenia, and called attention to a decline in international aid for them.

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The Foreign Minister of Germany, Klaus Kinkel, today stated that his country was prepared to assume responsibility as a permanent member of the Security Council. He told the General Assembly that the most important decisions on security and peace were today made in the Council and that anyone who wanted peace had to strengthen the Council. However, it would only be

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possible to maintain and strengthen the Council's credibility if deliberations on its reform took into account the growing importance of the Third World.

A culture of peace was a prerequisite for lasting peace, he said. Not only governments but individual citizens had to develop the will for peace if they were to overcome racial hatred and religious conflict. The Europeans, he continued, lived nextdoor to and in close contact with Islam. Mutual bridges of understanding were needed, not new "enemy-images". It was necessary to promote education for peace, and therefore the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with its mandate to foster relations between nations, deserved comprehensive support. Germany, he stated, advocated the strengthening of all United Nations bodies -- not never-ending discussions on reform but greater efficiency.

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Qian Qichen, Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, told the General Assembly today that his country desired a new international political and economic order of peace, stability, justice and rationality based on the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence" and on the recognition of diversity and the differences between States. In that new order, mutual respect and cooperation would replace hegemonism and power politics; peace talks would replace the use or threat of force; and equality and accomodation would replace trade protectionism and unequal exchanges. He called on developed countries to curb protectionism, provide more funds for development and environmental protection and cut the debt burdens of developing countries.

China had always supported a total nuclear test ban within the framework of the complete prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons, Mr. Qian went on to say. China exercised great restraint in nuclear testing and had carried out fewer tests than other nuclear powers. He rejected allegations that China's economic success would entail a military build-up, or that China would "move around filling up the vacuum". China's burgeoning economy contributed to the economic well-being of Asia and the world at large, and it would never engage in aggression or expansionism, he stressed.

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French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told the General Assembly today that France's foreign policy was based on a desire for independence and a commitment to its strategic, commercial and cultural interests. While it was open to negotiation, France would not give up any essential element of its security, prosperity or soul. His country wanted a strong, prosperous, democratic and generous Europe. European unity was the only way to avert the dangers of implacable nationalist sentiment and economic disparities. France had spared no effort to end the war in the former Yugoslavia and had made the largest contribution to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). To prevent the recurrence of such a war, it had submitted a pact on European stability to its European partners, to which it would like to associate the Russian Federation, Canada and the United States.

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The Foreign Minister said the United Nations must be strengthened. The Security Council might be enlarged with new permanent members and additional non-permanent members, while preserving its efficiency. The Secretary-General should have the means to carry out his tasks, with a stronger peace-keeping department, an inspection mechanism and a court for budgetary discipline. The Organization's finances should be reorganized, with penalties for late payment of dues. The Organization needed an expanded capacity to respond to threats to peace, but should not have its own military force, he added.

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Teodor Viorel Melescanu, Foreign Minister of Romania, told the General Assembly yesterday that his country had learned that democracy, the rule of law, the market economy and fundamental freedoms were essential for the fulfilment of human aspirations. It had also learned that the process of transition would take longer than expected. He cited the decreased cooperation with neighbouring countries and the negative effects on his country's economy of the United Nations embargo against Iraq, Libya and the former Yugoslavia, which Romania observed. Despite the undeniable difficulties, he said, "there is no way back".

Romania was determined to contribute to United Nations peace-keeping activities to as far as possible, he continued. The support and cooperation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) were both welcome in the effort to enhance those activities. He suggested that the United Nations define the legal content of the duty of solidarity, which should become one of the key strategic values of the new world order. The best way to turn hope to reality was to work together in a vital, growing solidarity aimed at what could be accomplished tomorrow.

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Guido di Tella, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina, speaking in the general debate yesterday, warned that there was a concrete risk that the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations would fail because some Governments insisted on protectionist policies that were anachronistic and adversely affected the trade possibilities of countries such as Argentina. However, despite those problems, there was cause for hope, he said.

The strengthening of a climate of harmony in Latin America would require new ideas for the development of a structure of regional security adapted to the present times, based on cooperation, balance and transparency, he said. Cooperative security was a realistic and feasible proposal for Latin America and countries in the region should give it special consideration, in accordance with the ideas of the Secretary-General on the role of regional organizations in his "An Agenda for Peace". He reaffirmed Argentina's rights to the Malvinas Islands and to the South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands. The peaceful and negotiated recovery of the islands was a central and permanent issue of his country's foreign policy, he said.

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Niels Helveg Petersen, the Foreign Minister of Denmark, yesterday told the General Assembly that the peoples of the world looked more and more to the United Nations to solve their conflicts and to bring them political stability and economic prosperity. The Organization was also expected to play a leading role in securing democracy and respect for human rights, including women's and children's rights, to bring relief to refugees and displaced persons and to prevent the spread of means of mass destruction.

Stating that reform of the United Nations was necessary to meet those challenges, he outlined various items for consideration. These included the need to make the composition of the Security Council more representative of current realities and the importance of strengthening the Organization in the area of peace-keeping, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy. The Assembly should establish the post of high commissioner for human rights, as recommended by the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, while the United Nations must respond effectively to the economic and social needs of developing countries. He stressed that the World Social Summit, to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, was an opportunity to put people at the centre of development.

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Ibrahima Sylla, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Guinea, said yesterday that it was paradoxical that the international community was being asked to resolve international conflicts while simultaneously being denied the resources with which to carry out that task. In a statement to the General Assembly, he went on to say that in the developing world today the necessary capital for economic growth was nowhere to be found. In Africa that problem had been complicated by drought, desertification, stagnation in development aid, deteriorating terms of trade, reduced export earnings, structural adjustment and external debt.

However, he continued, Africa had seen the progressive democratization of its society and institutions. Guinea had ratified the majority of African and international conventions on human rights and had adopted laws calling for presidential government; the separation of powers; the primacy of law; political pluralism and decentralization. He said a Supreme Court had been established and a National Media Council had been formed to guarantee freedom of expression and access by all political parties to State media.

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Speaking in the general debate yesterday, Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski said that in an increasingly interdependent world, the United Nations offered the best avenue to address current and future global problems and to face the task of creating a better, more democratic and just world. Such an approach must be based on the assumption that the world had become pluralistic, whatever the "size and weight" of the States.

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The Foreign Minister said there was an increased awareness of the need for multilateral approaches in solving problems. The primary source of crises now lay in unresolved economic and social issues and in such political problems as territorial disputes and ethnic tensions. Efforts should also be undertaken to promote human rights on a regional level. He suggested that a small bureau, possibly located in Warsaw, could be entrusted with monitoring human rights observance in Eastern Europe. Citing the increasing violations of humanitarian law in armed conflicts, he called for urgent action to revive the observance of humanitarian law and to uphold the authority of the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols.

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Lieutenant Karefa Kargbo, Sierra Leone's Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said yesterday in the General Assembly that the civil war in Liberia continued to take the lives of many innocent Sierra Leoneans. Some 400,000 had been internally displaced, and 250,000 others had had to seek refugee status in neighbouring countries, while the national economy had been devastated. Without peace in Liberia, Sierra Leoneans could not embark on the economic reconstruction of their country. He said that his Government had expected that by now there would have been both a rapid establishment and deployment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL).

Peace-keeping, he continued, was not a panacea for political problems. Therefore, a comprehensive reassessment of how the Organization should pursue its responsibilities in that area was needed. Endless operations which seemed to induce in the protagonists an unrealistic reliance on peace-keeping personnel should be discouraged. Resources that could be better used to address the consequences of underdevelopment should not be expended on providing a false sense of security to warring factions, he said.

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Mario Carias Zapata, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, told the General Assembly yesterday that greater resources should be allocated to funding international legal mechanisms such as the International Court of Justice. That Court had dealt with a border issue between Honduras and El Salvador one year ago, and both States were respecting the ruling so that border populations were living in harmony.

He went on to express concern over recent events in Haiti. The Governors Island Agreement, which called for the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, must be fully implemented within the agreed timetable. Central American States, he said, were working together to foster a new kind of economic, social and cultural integration for the sake of the people of the region. Events in one Central American country impacted the others and required a regional response; therefore, the Governments of the region must strengthen their cooperation.

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Venancio de Moura, Angola's Minister of External Relations, yesterday called for reform of the Security Council so that it could respond to the reality of today's world. Participating in the general debate, he said the enlargement of the Council should provide for the equitable representation of all the regions of the globe. The defence of peace and international security should be the responsibility of all States.

The critical economic and political situation of Angola today was similar to the situations in Somalia, Bosnia, Cambodia or some countries of the former Soviet Union, he said, but the international community seemed insensitive to the tragedy there. Referring to the leader of the opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which was defeated in United Nations-supervised elections last year, he said that a poor loser would not hesitate to defy the international community unless sanctions were applied against him. He called for vigorous international action, so that democracy would not be frustrated in the transition process in Angola.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and President Issaias Afwerki of Eritrea will sign an agreement at Headquarters tomorrow to establish a United Nations Integrated Office in Asmara, Eritrea. The Office will facilitate coordination between United Nations agencies in support of post-conflict nation-building efforts. The Secretary-General will shortly appoint a United Nations Representative who will also serve as the Resident Coordinator in Eritrea.

Since September 1992, United Nations Interim/Integrated Offices have been established eight other offices of this kind. Eritrea, which became independent on 24 May after a referendum monitored and verified by the United Nations, became the 182nd Member of the Organization on 28 May

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The epidemic of optic neuritis which struck over 50,000 people in Cuba earlier this year no longer appears to be spreading, according to a report from the World Health Organization (WHO). The Manager of WHO's Programme for the Prevention of Blindness, Dr. Bjorn Thylefors, said in Geneva today that it was still not known what had caused the outbreak, but it was believed to have been a toxic substance used in daily life. About 1,500 people had suffered severe, permanent loss of vision, he said.

Researchers had concluded that no virus, bacteria or other microorganism was responsible for the epidemic, given that it had not affected the young or people over 65. Dr. Thylefors said that because of economic hardship, average calorie intake in Cuba had fallen sharply over the past four years, increasing vulnerability to disease. Children had not been affected by the epidemic, probably because Cuba's health care system provided them with additional nutrition. In May, the authorities began distributing vitamin B complex tablets to the country's entire population of 11 million.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1489

30 September 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tajikistan, Eritrea, Estonia, Lebanon, Italy, Hungary, Ghana and Ukraine among speakers in General Assembly's general debate today.
- * Pakistan, Mexico, Netherlands, Belarus, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Senegal among speakers in general debate yesterday.
- * Secretary-General expresses condolences to India after Maharashtra earthquake; United Nations ready to assist in relief efforts.
- * Secretary-General convenes round table to mark third anniversary of World Summit for Children.

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Kiro Gligorov, President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, today said that his country was dedicated to strict compliance with the United Nations Charter, supporting measures to enhance international peace and security, the democratization of international relations, the advancement of human rights, good neighbourly relations and the use of preventive diplomacy. Speaking in the General Assembly's general debate, he expressed concern over the continuation of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the threat of "an all-out Balkan war". Permanent peace would not be possible without compliance with the principles that borders could not be changed by force, that the international community did not accept ethnic cleansing and that the rights of minorities must be respected.

President Gligorov said the Security Council's decision to deploy a contingent of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops in his country had proved justified, timely and efficient, and it had demonstrated the enormous advantages of preventive diplomacy. Discussing the impact of the sanctions imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), he said that his country's economic situation was very difficult, and that its survival and development depended on international assistance.

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Emomali Rakhmonov, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan, today said that his Government was seriously concerned by the attempts to regionalize the internal Tajik conflict. His country was not "hatching any inimical plans" with regard to Afghanistan, he stressed, and the measures being adopted to strengthen the safety of its border with that country were fully in keeping with norms of international relations. He took hope from the advances made in negotiations in Kabul and said that permanent, substantive dialogue with the leadership of the Islamic State of Afghanistan would help remove some of the other "well known irritants".

Tajikistan was greatly concerned by the course of events in the "hot spots" of the planet, and knew how destructive the force of local conflict could be, he said. He appealed to the world community to multiply its efforts to end and prevent that kind of conflict. The force of arms could not solve a single contentious issue. In that connection, Tajikistan was seriously concerned about the uncontrolled and unsanctioned trade in arms in areas of intense instability. A massive arming of entire regions was taking place, and Tajikistan knew from bitter experience how unbelievably hard it was to take away from a population weapons they had obtained illegally.

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Isaias Afwerki, President of Eritrea, told the General Assembly today that at this critical juncture in its history, his country needed and deserved international assistance, not only because the United Nations and the international community bore special responsibility for what had happened there, but also because it was a test case for the Organization's Agenda for Peace. Thus far, that support had fallen far short of expectations. He said the international aid programme was deeply flawed, unfair and ill-structured to respond to the vital needs of recipient communities.

While acknowledging the achievements of the international intervention in Somalia, he said the increasing toll in civilian lives had cast a long shadow on that operation. He warned that the precipitate withdrawal of United States troops would not only signal a lack of commitment by the United States to the intervention, but would eventually make the position of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) untenable. That would plunge Somalia into a catastrophe much worse than the anarchy which had prompted the intervention in the first place. He also said that the countries in the region, whose contribution had been neglected, needed to become part of the process in a more meaningful and formalized way, as it affected them more than anyone else.

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Estonian President Lennart Meri told the General Assembly today that the Second World War was continuing in his country because the foreign forces which had occupied Estonia in 1940 were still there. Russian President Boris Yeltsin, he said, should strengthen the world's confidence in democracy by withdrawing the remaining forces from Estonia and Latvia and by signing international agreements to that effect. He appealed to the United Nations to help solve the problem, and suggested that it mandate a mission to be led by

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an authoritative European politician. The use of preventive diplomacy could remove a potential source of conflict and thus strengthen the Organization's prestige, he said.

President Meri rejected the argument that the Russian Federation could not house forces withdrawn from the Baltic States, saying that that approach lacked any legal basis. Furthermore, Estonia and her partners would help solve the housing problem by providing financial and material aid. He also rejected the argument that ex-Soviet forces were needed to defend the human rights of Russians residing in the Baltic States, saying that those residents did not wish to become pawns in a political game.

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Rafic Hariri, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, today told the General Assembly that peace was the only path to follow as all other options had proven futile. Lebanon was facing the future with a new sense of unity, having put the tragedy of the civil war behind it. It was fully committed to the United Nations and its Charter, and deserved the support of the world community. The magnitude and intensity of the conflict in Lebanon had proved that the nation was too strong to be eliminated. The Government was striving to restore the country to its former position in the world community. Lebanon's major loss had been the emigration of many talented people, and it now had to draw them back.

Mr. Hariri expressed gratitude for the work of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). He called on the international community to work forcefully for the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), and demanded that Israel withdraw from all occupied Lebanese territory. The Lebanese Armed Forces would assume full responsibility for those areas once Israel had withdrawn. Lebanon would be an active participant in making peace; it had suffered from unilateral deals and partial solutions, and believed that peace was indivisible. There could be no durable peace in the Middle East without the involvement of Lebanon and Syria, he stressed.

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The Foreign Minister of Italy, Beniamino Andreatta, said today that in terms of United Nations practices, the traditional counterpointing of diplomacy and military action no longer corresponded to current reality. He told the General Assembly that while the unity of military command was essential to the success of an operation, the use of force had to be considered in view of its advisability and timing with respect to political objectives. In situations involving crowds of civilians, non-lethal anti-riot equipment should be used. Not only Italy, he said, but other troop-contributing countries had stressed that mechanisms were needed to exempt their troops from orders that might be illegal, inconsistent or in contradiction with an operation's aims.

Mr. Andreatta expressed hope that the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina would agree to end the fighting there, but added that the international

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community must not forget that crimes against humanity had been committed during the conflict. He applauded the establishment of the International Tribunal to deal with those crimes and said tough sentences should be handed down, although Italy opposed the use of the death sentence. He suggested that the international community bring the same determination to the establishment of an international criminal court to prosecute the most serious human rights violations.

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Hungarian Foreign Minister Géza Jeszenszky said in the general debate today that the convulsions of world history had been strongly felt in his country, but that the Government had successfully maintained internal stability. Conflict had been raging in the former Yugoslavia for two years, but not even the gravest crimes against humanity had persuaded the world to counter aggression promptly or to prevent the acquisition of territory by force and ethnic cleansing. He said the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter should be upheld without compromise. He called attention to the economic losses suffered by Hungary as a result of its implementation of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and said an effective mechanism should be established to tackle the problems sanctions implemented by Security Council caused to third party States.

Mr. Jeszenszky went on to say that the United Nations Charter should be reviewed and certain provisions brought into line with changing realities. The distinction between signatories and enemy States should be eliminated. Some States should be more intimately involved in the maintenance of international peace and security, he said, adding that Germany and Japan were qualified for permanent membership of the Security Council.

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Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Obed Asamoah, speaking in the general debate today, said that the world was faced with an economic and social situation similar to that which preceded the two world wars. All the political changes and national and ethnic conflicts, aggravated by global recession, threatened to undermine the purposes of the United Nations. He urged the continued pursuit of the goal of total disarmament and said Ghana would like to see the proposed Arms Register include the national production of arms and all other weapons of destruction. Disarmament would obviously be easier, he said, in an environment of peace based on mutual confidence and in that context, he welcomed the efforts of the United Nations to shoulder the increasing burden of peace-keeping and peacemaking.

However, he continued, there were lessons to be learnt for current and future operations. He cited as examples the holding of elections in Angola and Cambodia without the fulfillment of certain conditions such as disarmament and cantonment of troops, a mistake which the United Nations did not intend to repeat in Mozambique. Peacemaking could be a slow and painful process, he said, but he went on to say that the new relations in the Middle East yielded an inspiring truth, that there was no conflict that was not capable of

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solution. He welcomed the decision to sustain the United Nations presence in Cyprus, and called for greater United Nations involvement in Sudan.

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Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko told the General Assembly today that membership of the United Nations was one of the most important guarantees of his country's security and independence. Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, Ukraine had lived next to a zone of instability, alienation and even tension. Every crisis in Europe could affect it in one way or another. Ukraine thus advocated the creation of a "Central and East European space of stability and security", including the Baltic and Black Sea areas, as a contribution to preventive diplomacy.

Ukraine had inherited a huge nuclear arsenal from the Soviet Union, but had proclaimed its intention to become non-nuclear, Mr. Zlenko continued. However, disarmament presented certain problems, including the need for financing -- an estimated \$2.8 billion -- and the need for reliable guarantees of national security. The return to Ukraine of nuclear components from dismantled warheads, or compensation for them, and unemployment among former servicemen were also issues which had to be resolved. He drew attention to Ukraine's difficult economic situation, and said that measures had been taken to attract investment and to develop bilateral trade and economic relations.

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Abdul Sattar, Pakistan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, yesterday told the General Assembly that his country was deeply grieved because its troops in Somalia had suffered heavy casualties. However, it would not abandon the United Nations mission, but would continue to work for peace and harmony in that country. The optimism generated by the end of the cold war had been blighted by events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he said. A United Nations Member had been carved up by the use of force, and its people had been made to negotiate a so-called "agreement". "A plan that would reward aggression and legalize acquisition of territory by force cannot, and should not, win the approbation of the world community," he said. The General Assembly could still act to defend law and justice and preserve Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty.

The crisis in Kashmir called for urgent action by the United Nations, he continued, as India had unleashed a brutal reign of terror in the occupied state. The right of the Kashmiri people to decide their own future had been specifically pledged to them by Pakistan, by India and by the United Nations. He called on India to fulfil its legal obligations and asked all other Members of the Organization to stop Indian violations of human rights in Kashmir and to ensure the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions.

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Fernando Solana Morales, Mexico's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, yesterday told the General Assembly that given the increase in the membership of the

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United Nations since its inception, it might be advisable to double the Security Council's membership. Those countries which contributed the most to peace should be represented on the Council, not those who were the world's largest arms exporters, he said. Mexico had never supported the veto right in the Council, as it was an undemocratic mechanism. Working groups should be set up in the Assembly to address the question of Council reform. He also expressed concern about attempts to expand peace-keeping operations into enforcement actions. When a peace-keeping operation was established, all concerned parties must give their consent. He urgently appealed to States to lay down parameters governing all the functions of such operations.

The Foreign Secretary noted that the United States, Canada and Mexico were to become the largest free trade area in the world. Mexico was also actively involved with its Latin American neighbours. As an Atlantic country, it felt close to the European Community and as a Pacific country, it had expanded its contacts with countries in Asia and the Pacific, he said.

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Pieter Hendrik Kooijmans, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, yesterday told the General Assembly that security could not be seen in military or political terms alone. Instability in the economic, social, humanitarian and ecological fields could also threaten peace and security. State sovereignty was sometimes difficult to define, and there were times when the international community had a moral duty to intervene, or for the United Nations to take over sovereignty, as in cases of anarchy. Recent Security Council resolutions on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Somalia had extended the definition of a threat to international peace and security. He supported the Secretary-General's call for a new diplomacy for democracy and human rights, which would be a valuable addition to "An Agenda for Peace".

Mr. Kooijmans called for increased funding for the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and for the creation of a high commissioner for human rights. He noted that the Netherlands would host the international war crimes Tribunal in the Hague. The country had also reorganized its armed forces to participate more effectively in future peace-keeping operations and had made military officers available to help prepare for and supervise them.

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In a statement to the General Assembly yesterday, Petr Kravchanka, Foreign Minister of Belarus, noted that his country had inherited strategic nuclear potential from the former Soviet Union. It had a major arsenal in the heart of the Europe and had a direct affect on global security and nuclear balance. Belarus, however, had chosen to be non-nuclear. It had removed tactical nuclear weapons from its territory and had ratified the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Weapons. Belarus was the first sovereign State to voluntarily renounce possession of a developed nuclear potential and had made a real contribution to global security.

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The threat of illegal exports of nuclear materials, technology and equipment from the former Soviet Union was of great concern to the international community, the Foreign Minister continued. In response, Belarus had agreed with the United States to set up rigid export controls. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Belarus would present to the current session a joint declaration on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery. He called on the United Nations and European Commission to continue efforts to study the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and overcome them.

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Jacques Poos, Luxembourg's Minister for Foreign Affairs, External Trade and Cooperation, yesterday told the General Assembly that nationalism was, in the some ways, a natural expression of pride, but when pride was transformed into hostilities, nationalism became dangerous. Extreme nationalism was a real threat to the international order. Education for tolerance and legal protection for minorities were needed, and new instruments to that effect would be discussed next week at the meeting of the 12 European Community Ministers. Democracy must be strengthened at the national level, he stressed.

The peace plan being discussed by the three parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina was complex, but it presented a hope for peace, Mr. Poos said. The European Community would help with the implementation of an agreement. Preservation of peace was linked to the protection of human rights, he continued. It had been clearly stated at the World Conference on Human Rights that human rights were universal and the protection of those rights was closely linked to the exercise of democracy. He welcomed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decision to organize free elections for all State bodies in that country.

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Han Sung-Joo, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, yesterday told the General Assembly that his country strongly supported efforts to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons beyond 1995 through the extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It also supported the strengthening of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards to ensure the effectiveness of the NPT. He urged existing nuclear Powers not only to accelerate their efforts to reduce their nuclear arsenals, but also to join the efforts for a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty.

Despite world-wide trends towards peace and cooperation, there was still tension on the Korean peninsula, he continued. The solution to the inter-Korean question should be sought in the context of the post-cold war international order of reconciliation and cooperation. He expressed particular concern regarding the North Korean nuclear programme. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea should honour its non-proliferation obligations under the NPT and comply with its safeguards agreement with the

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IAEA, in conformity with Security Council resolution 825 (1993), he said.

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Donald McKinnon, New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, said yesterday in the general debate that the world had four reasons for hope: the cold war was over; democracy was spreading; the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) provided an opportunity to end protectionism; and "Agenda 21", the programme of action adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), reflected a global consensus to preserve the environment.

New Zealand supported the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace", he said. Revamping the Department of Peace-keeping Operations was a good idea, but more than a shift in resources was needed. The new philosophy of peace-building and peacemaking had to work in tandem with the well-tried peace-keeping philosophy of the past. The capacity to prevent conflicts must be improved. The suffering of refugees was beyond comprehension, but not beyond compassion. New Zealand had responded by making special provision for refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Somali and Cambodia; establishing programmes for vulnerable groups, such as women at risk; and by providing aid. The aim, he said, was to allow refugees to return home safely and in dignity.

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Robert Dossou, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Benin, said Africa needed peace or economic and political reform programmes would not succeed. He appealed to the parties to the Liberian Peace Agreement to cooperate with the United Nations in ending the suffering of the Liberian people. The international community must continue to work for peace in Somalia, Mozambique and Angola. The recognition by the United States of the legality of the Government of Angola would support that effort, he added.

The new economic order was excluding Africa and leading to an economic crisis there, Mr. Dossou said, warning that the continent's debt burden could lead to a slowing of world trade. Africa's situation demanded regional integration and international support for trade, research and development. The right to development must now be considered a priority. Benin attached great importance to the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It had held a national conference to address relevant issues, particularly drought and desertification.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed his sincere condolences to the Government and people of India for the appalling loss of life and devastation caused by the earthquake which hit the state of Maharashtra last night, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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The United Nations was already responding to the disaster and was ready to assist the Government in its relief efforts, and the Secretary-General was in personal touch with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, the spokesman said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, addressing a round table he convened today to mark the third anniversary of the World Summit for Children, said that with 148 countries having signed the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and with a global plan of action to improve the health, nutrition and education of children by the year 2000, tactics were now the priority. Investment in children was an investment in the future of humanity and would provide the basis for democracy worldwide.

The gathering of Presidents, Prime Ministers and Special Envoys, under the co-chairmanship of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of Nicaragua and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh, reported on how the promises made at the Summit had been turned into action. The goal of universal childhood immunization had been met by 1990. With national will and international support, speakers said, the mid-decade goals could be met and millions of children saved each year.

President Chamorro said the Convention on the Rights of the Child could become, by 1995, "the first universal law of humankind." James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said that achieving the mid-decade goals "would do more for the well-being of children, in a shorter period of time, and at lower cost, than any other undertaking in history".

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